

The Landing of William of Orange.

JUST one hundred years after the destruction of the Spanish Armada, came the Great Revolution to which we owe our civil and religious liberties and our national prestige. Charles II, one of the most despicable monarchs that ever sat on the English throne, died in February, 1685. Says Cunningham.—“He degraded England from a first class power into a pensioner of France; he inflicted greater sufferings upon Scotland than any monarch before or since; he scandalized the whole country by his open profligacy; and finally he gave the lie to the religion he had professed all his life, by receiving on his death-bed the sacrament from a Roman Catholic priest.” James II of England, and of Scotland VII, brother to the late King, succeeded to the throne, and in his first address to his Privy Council promised to “follow the example of *so good and gracious a King!*” This he did with a vengeance. The most savage persecutions ensued. Himself a Roman Catholic by education, he determined from the first to promote despotism and popery in the kingdom. Things went on from bad to worse, until finally they reached a climax which a high-spirited and downtrodden people could no longer tamely endure. The kingdom was ripe for revolution. Prince William of Orange belonged to the house of Nassau; by maternal descent, he was a nephew of James II, and was married to his eldest daughter; but for the claims of “the Pretender,” he was the next heir to the crown of Britain. He was born at the Hague in 1650, and while still a young man had earned a brilliant reputation as a soldier and statesman. In their extremity, the Protestants of the United Kingdom instinctively set their hearts on this illustrious prince, in whom they saw the heroic qualities of head and heart that were needed just then to meet the emergency. For some time, William himself had been weighing the chances of success in the event of his throwing himself into the contest. When, therefore, the invitation reached him, asking him to take upon himself the great enterprise of emancipating a nation from spiritual bondage, he was prepared to accept the responsibility. Against him, be-

sides James II and his minions, were Austria, Spain, France, and the Vatican; but, on the other hand, he was encouraged by the whole Protestant portion of Europe. In order to justify his undertaking in the eyes of the world, he published a declaration, in which he enumerated the oppressions under which the English nation groaned and the reasons which moved him to undertake its deliverance.

On the 19th of October, 1688, William embarked at the Hague, and the Dutch fleet, consisting of fifty-two men-of-war, twenty-five frigates, with other smaller vessels, and an army of some 15,000 soldiers, sailed for England. From the mast-head of his own ship floated an English flag, emblazoned with the arms of Nassau, surrounded with the legendary motto, “For the Protestant Religion and Liberties of England,” and beneath, the motto of the house of Orange, “*Je maintiendrai.*” He had a goodly following. Besides the Count of Nassau and other Dutch and German commanders, there were with him many of those English and Scottish noblemen and gentlemen whom persecution had compelled to flee to Holland and France. The fleet encountered a severe storm during eight days and had to put back for repairs, but at length, on the 3rd of November, it had crossed the Channel, and on the 5th, it was safely anchored in Torbay. As soon as it was known that William had landed and was advancing towards London, the enthusiasm of the common people knew no bounds. The next to declare themselves for him were the landed gentry, and, lastly, many of the nobility. Six weeks later, James II was a fugitive, and the country was free.

“Freedom’s battle once began,
Bequeathed by bleeding sire to son,
Though baffled oft, is ever won.”

Missionary Cabinet.

MRS. MARGARET WILSON.

IN a previous number of the *Record* (February, 1885) there is sketch of the life of Rev. Dr. John Wilson of Bombay, who commenced his brilliant career of nearly half a century in India in 1828. In that year he was married to Margaret Bayne, a